

REMARKS

Claims 2, 8-10, 12-15 and 25 are amended and claims 1, 10 and 27-48 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 32-48 had been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Accordingly, as a result of the present Amendment, claims 2-9 and 11-26 are pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

Claims 1-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0106887) in combination with Imaizumi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0007251). In view of the cancellation of claims 1-11 and 13 herein without prejudice or disclaimer, this rejection is moot.

In particular, Applicant's have cancelled claims 1-11 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer (and reserving all rights to seek patent protection for the subject matter of those claims in further patent applications, including divisional or continuation applications), in an effort to expedite the allowance of the application with the remaining claims.

In particular, claims 12 and 14-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 12, 14, 15 and 25 are amended to be in independent form, and to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 8, 9 and 13 have been amended to depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 12. The remaining pending claims (claims 3-7, 11 and 14-26) are each dependent, directly or indirectly, on one of independent claims 12, 14, 15 or 25 (which are placed in condition for allowance as described above).

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (310) 975-7963, to discuss any steps believed to be needed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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